

Message Text

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SUBJECT:INTERNATIONAL JOIN COMMISSION: COHEN APPOINTMENT - PRESS
REACTION

REF: OTTAWA 0291

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JAN 31 MONTREAL GAZETTE EDITORIAL
ENTITLED "IJC CHAIRMAN WITH IDEAS":

BEGIN QUOTE. AN ADVOCATE OF PROFOUND CHANGES IN THE
STRUCTURE OF CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAS NOW BEEN
APPOINTED TO ONE OF THE KEY POSTS IN THAT STRUCTURE, THE
CANADIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT
COMMISSION MAXWELL COHEN, ACDONALD PROFESSOR OF LAW
AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY AND FORMER DEAN OF ITS LAW FACULTY,
HAS A LONG-ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION FOR HIS
STUDIES AND PROPOSALS IN THIS AN OTHER AREAS OF
CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL POLICY.

FOR MANY YEARS HE HAS BEEN URGING THAT CANADA AND THE U.S.
SHOULD HAVE A MORE OPEN AND INSTITUTIONALIZED RELATIONSHIP,
RATHER THAN LEAVING THEIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS TO QUIET
DIPLOMACY AND THE CRISIS-APPROACH TO SETTLING
DIFFERENCES. HE HAS USED THE EXAMPLE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION WITH ITS CANADIAN AND
AMERICAN CO-CHAIRMEN AND EQUAL MEMBERSHIP FROM THE
TWO COUNTRIES, AS AN EXAMPLE THAT COULD BE USED MORE
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WIDELY.

WHY SHOULD ONLY BOUNDARY PROBLEMS, MOSTLY DEALING WITH WATER COURSES, BE SUBJECT TO THE JOINT APPROACH OF STUDY, HEARINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS? WHY NOT OTHER SHARED PROBLEMS - TRANSPORTATION, ESPECIALLY CIVIL AVIATION, OR ENERGY RESOURCES, OR SPECIFIC TRADE MATTERS - AS WELL?

THE OFTEN QUERULOUS, ILL-INFORMED NATURE OF CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS COULD PROBABLY BE GREATLY IMPROVED BY THE DELIBERATE, CONSTANT AND PUBLIC ATTEMPT TO FIND THE NUB OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND EQUAL ADVANTAGE AROUND WHICH THE PRACTICE OF GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD BE GREATLY EXPANDED. WHETHER THROUGH EXTENSION OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE IJC ITSELF, AS SUGGESTED IN 1965 IN THE HEENEY-MERCHANT REPORT, OR THROUGH THE CREATION OF SIMILAR NEW AGENCIES, THE BASIS OF CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS LONG ADVOCATED BY PROFESSOR COHEN SHOULD NOW MOVE INTO THE STAGE OF PRACTICAL POLICY-MAKING WITH HIS APPOINTMENT AS CANADIAN CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION END QUOTE
JOHNSON

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